INSIDE FACTS FROM THE FILES OF

RACKET SQUAD

RACKET SQUAD

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

A CHARLTON PUBLICATION

No 24

10¢

IN ACTION

How I Made a Small Fortune In Spare Time!

(WITHOUT SPENDING A PENNY)

The TRUE STORY of William Bergstrom of Illinois

Me, but maybe BETTER! I'm a Mason Shoe Man in off hours. You should see how people buy these shoes! Look... real AIR CUSHION innersoles!
GOSH! Can I make money that way?

Jim told me Mason sends a Selling Outfit FREE and shows how to make MONEY. So I mailed a coupon. My wife was thrilled.
Bill! Look... a real air cushion innersole that customers can feel!
And look at this! Over 175 different styles! Dress shoes, sport shoes, work shoes... from width AAA to EEEE!

I started with friends, relatives, people where I worked. EVERYBODY wants comfortable shoes!
Just feel that cushion, Joe! Wouldn't you like to "Walk on Air" all day long?
Say, I'd like those shoes. You sure have swell styles...my right size, too!

Soon the Mason people sent me actual sample shoes, and sales came faster than ever!
Say, you have a larger selection than a store!
Stores can't carry all the sizes and widths to fit every foot right. Mason has 200,000 pairs on hand, so I'm never out of a style, size or width!

My spare-time business grew by leaps and bounds. It was a cinch getting repeat orders!
Hello, Mr. Jones. It's been 2 months since he called on you.
Come in, Mr. Bergstrom. Time I was getting another pair of Mason shoes. My wife needs a pair, too.
I never had a shoe fit so well!

I soon had a business that brought me over $3,000 EXTRA a year, plus exciting prizes. I found real security.
Bill, a new toaster!
Didn't cost a cent! Mason gave it to me. They give away thousands of prizes every year. I've really made a small fortune!

Mail Coupon For YOUR FREE Money-Making Outfit!

What would YOU do with $3,000 EXTRA income a year? Thousands of men are making handsome **extra incomes** with Mason Shoe. You don't invest one cent...ever. You need no experience. We'll send you a complete Starting Outfit FREE! It features handsome line of over 175 styles in smart dress shoes, sporty casuals and fast-selling work shoes...and includes 10-second Air Cushion demonstrator, Measuring equipment, Money-making booklet, National ads... EVERYTHING you need to start making **big money** from your first hour!

If you want to give yourself a **raise** every month—with a steady-profit repeat-order business...if you want to be **your own boss**...just rush this coupon TODAY to Mason Shoe Mfg. Co., Dept. 266, Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin. You'll receive your powerful *FREE* SALES OUTFIT *right away!*

Mr. Ned Mason, Dept. 266
Mason Shoe Mfg. Co.
Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin

You bet I want to start making a small fortune in spare time! Rush my FREE SELLING OUTFIT with everything I need to start making money my first hour!

Name_____ Age_____

Address_____

Town_____ State_____

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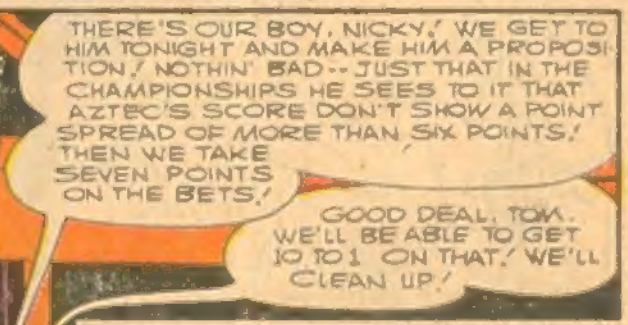
Alfred M. Fago Executive Editor

POINT SPREAD

THE SLIMY HANDS OF GAMBLERS REACH OUT EVERYWHERE... AND NOTHING THEY TOUCH STAYS CLEAN! BUT SOMETIMES ONE MAN WHO KEEPS HIS HEAD CAN STOP THE HAND THAT REACHES SO EAGERLY FOR THE DISHONEST DOLLAR!


THERE'S OUR BOY, NICKY! WE GET TO HIM TONIGHT AND MAKE HIM A PROPOSITION! NOTHIN' BAD -- JUST THAT IN THE CHAMPIONSHIPS HE SEES TO IT THAT AZTEC'S SCORE DON'T SHOW A POINT SPREAD OF MORE THAN SIX POINTS! THEN WE TAKE SEVEN POINTS ON THE BETS!
GOOD DEAL, TOM. WE'LL BE able TO GET 10 TO 1 ON THAT! WE'LL CLEAN UP!

AND THE BEAUTY OF IT IS ALL WE NEED IS BILL HARMON ON OUR SIDE! HE MEANS AN EASY 20 POINTS IN EVERY GAME! AND HE'S BEEN CLEAN UP TO NOW SO NOBODY'LL SUSPECT HIM!

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

BILL, WE DID IT! AN UNBEATEN SEASON! NOW ALL WE NEED IS THE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME! I'M COUNTING ON YOU TO SCORE THAT ONE UP FOR US!
THANKS, COACH! WE'LL MAKE IT! BUT IT'S BECAUSE OF ALL THE BOYS... NOT JUST ME!
SO LONG, BILLY! SEE YOU IN CLASS!
GOOD NIGHT, FELLOWS!
HEY, WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?
JUST WANT TO TALK A WHILE, HARMON! GOT A PROPOSITION!
IT'S LIKE THIS, HARMON-- MY BUSINESS IS BETTING ON BASKETBALL GAMES AND I LIKE TO MAKE SURE I'M RIGHT! SO TO MAKE SURE, I'M WILLING TO SEE YOU MAKE A FEW BUCKS TOO!
GET OUT OF MY WAY! I DON'T THROW GAMES!
WHO SAID THROW A GAME? ALL YOU GOTTA DO IS SEE YOU WIN BY LESS THAN SIX POINTS IN THE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME! THAT'S ALL! IT'S NICE AND CLEAN AND YOU MAKE A FEW BUCKS!
OF COURSE, YOU CAN BE STUBBORN OR SILLY AND TRY TO CROSS ME-- BUT IT AIN'T HEALTHY, BECAUSE SOMETIMES I CAN'T CONTROL NICKY!
YEAH, HE'S MY FRIEND AND IT HURTS ME IF MY FRIENDS LOSE MONEY!
I WON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH IT!

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

I THINK YOU WILL WHEN YOU THINK IT OVER, KID! HERE'S AN ADVANCE PAYMENT! YOU GET THE REST AFTER THE GAME!
NO THANKS!
LATER THAT NIGHT...
WHAT COULD I DO? THEY'RE THUGS AND LIVES DON'T MEAN MUCH TO THEM! I'LL GO TO THE POLICE IN THE MORNING!
EARLY NEXT MORNING...
HI, KID! JUST THOUGHT I'D GO TO SCHOOL WITH YOU THIS MORNING!
NICKY! GET OUT OF HERE! I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOU!
BETTER GET USED TO ME, KID! I'M GONNA BE AS CLOSE AS YOUR UNDERWEAR TILL THE GAME IS OVER! I JUST DON'T WAN'T NOTHIN' TO HAPPEN TO YOU UNLESS I MAKE IT HAPPEN!
NICKY WAS AS GOOD AS HIS WORD! HE WAS WITH BILL HARMON EVERY-WHERE...
WHAT'S THE MATTER, KID? YOU AIN'T HUNGRY?
NO SMO
MEET A FRIEND OF MINE, COACH! THIS IS NICKY!
NEVER MET YOU BEFORE, NICKY-- BUT ANY FRIEND OF BILL'S IS WELCOME!

MYSTERY! MAGIC! SCIENCE! FUN!

To Amuse and Amaze Your Friends

A necessary tool for the amateur magician and a good joke too. Plastic, 16 inches long with white tips and a black center. 5 exciting tricks—Rises, jumps, produces silk, etc.

No. 240 _____ 1.50

Boomerang

Here's something new in target throwing. In case you miss, it comes right back to you, and bingo! you're all set to "fire" again. More fun than a barrel of monkeys.

No. 141 _____ 50¢

THROW YOUR VOICE

Ventro & Book

Your chance to be a ventriloquist. Throw your voice into trunks, behind doors, and everywhere. Instrument fits in your mouth and out of sight. You'll fool the teacher, your friends, and your family and have fun doing it. Free book on "How to Become a Ventriloquist."

No. 137 _____ 25¢

RADIO MIKE

Talk, Sing, Play thru your radio

Sing, laugh, talk, crack jokes from another room and your voice will be reproduced thru the radio! Fool everybody into thinking it's coming right out of the radio. Easily attached to most standard radios. Made of handsome enameled metal 4 inches high.

No. 112 _____ 1.98

Your chance to have eyes in back of your head. See behind or alongside and no one knows you are watching. Fun everywhere you go.

No. 146 _____ 35¢

LOOK-BACK SCOPE

WHOOPEE CUSHION

Place it on a chair under a cushion, then watch the fun when someone sits down! It gives forth embarrassing noises. Made of rubber, and inflatable. A scream at parties and gatherings.

No. 247 _____ 50¢

TRICK BASEBALL

It bounces cockeyed, it curves, it does it's impossible to catch. It's sure to set all the kids on the block spinning after it. There's a barrel of fun in every bounce of this amazing baseball!

No. 158 50¢

TALKING TEETH

They move! They talk! They're weird! Guaranteed to shut the jabbermouths up for good. It's really embarrass them. It's a set of big false teeth that when wound up start to chatter away like crazy. A great comic effect for false teeth on sale nights.

No. 433 _____ 1.25

POWERFUL COMPACT ONE TUBE RADIO

Packet Size Brings in stations up to 1000 miles away

Modern electronics makes this wonderful set possible. So small it will fit in a pocket. Everything is supplied for you. Easy to assemble in a few minutes with just a screw driver. No soldering required. Really powerful too. Announcements of stations up to 1000 miles away come in so loud and clear you'd think they were right near home. Learn many useful and important things about radio.

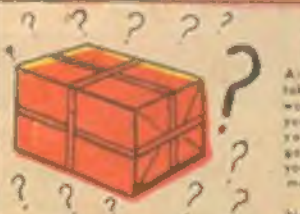
No. 205 _____ 3.98

MANY EXCLUSIVE ITEMS AVAILABLE

BLACK EYE JOKE

Show them the "naughty" pictures inside. They'll twist it and turn it to see, but all they do is blacken their eyes.

No. 218 _____ 25¢



SURPRISE PACKAGE

Are you willing to take a chance? We won't tell you what you get, but because you're willing to gamble, we'll give you more than your money's worth.

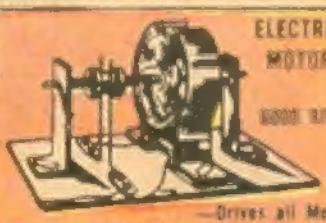
Only 50¢

No. 678 ___

HOT CANDY

Looks like regular candy, but it sure doesn't taste like it! Burns their mouth when they eat it. Like pepper. Pkg. of 3.

No. 022 ___ Only 12¢



ELECTRIC MOTOR

—Drives all Models

This is an offer that sounds unbelievable but it is being made just the same. Yes, you can have an actual electric motor for just 50¢. This compact little kit makes it a cinch to build this high-power motor. And the fun you are going to get from using it, it's so simple, and your motor is ready to turn out 6000 rpm's of power to work for you. The core of this remarkable tool actually turns at the rate of 3500 feet per minute.

No. 032 _____ Only 50¢

JOY BUZZER

The most popular joke novelty in years! Wind up and wear it like a ring. When you shake hands, it almost raises the victim off his feet with a "shocking sensation." Absolutely harmless.

No. 239 _____ Only 50¢

10 DAY TRIAL FREE

HONOR HOUSE PRODUCTS CORP. Lynbrook, N. Y. Dept. 4328

Cannot ship orders totalling less than $1.00

Rush me the items listed below. If I am not satisfied I may return any part of my purchase after 10 days free trial for full refund of the purchase price.

ITEM #	NAME OF ITEM	HOW MANY	TOTAL PRICE

☐ I enclose _____ in full payment. (No Honor House Products C.O.D.'s will pay postage.)

☐ Send C.O.D. I will pay postman on delivery plus a few cents postage.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

WHO'S THIS NEW FRIEND BILLY HAS, ED?
I DON'T KNOW, COACH--BUT HE'S A FUNNY KIND OF GUY AND BILLY'S BEEN NERVOUS EVER SINCE HE SHOWED UP!
AZTEC
ED'S RIGHT! BILLY'S TIGHTENING UP! I WONDER...
LATER...
WELL, HERE IT IS! THIS ONE IS FOR THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP! YOU'VE ALL WORKED HARD AND I'M PROUD OF YOU! JUST DO YOUR BEST!
WHAT DO YOU THINK, NICKY?
WE GOT IT MADE, TOM! HE'S SCARED AS A RABBIT! EVEN IF HE WANTS TO CROSS US HE'S TOO NERVOUS TO BE ANY GOOD!
YAY, HARMON!
GET A MILLION, BOY!

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

THE DOUBLE CROSSIN' RAT!
THIS IS COSTIN' ME A HUNDRED GRAND! HE'S GONNA BE A SORRY BOY AFTER THE GAME! LET'S GET OUT THERE NOW, NICKY!

AFTER THE GAME HAD BEEN WON...
I'M PROUD OF YOU, BILLY! YOU CAME THROUGH LIKE A TROOPER!
THANKS, COACH! I'M TIRED--SO IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, GOODNIGHT!

IT DIDN'T SMELL RIGHT FOR A CLEANCUT BOY LIKE BILLY TO SUDDENLY DEVELOP A FRIENDSHIP WITH A GOON LIKE NICKY! SO I HAD NICKY CHECKED AND WHAT I FOUND OUT MADE ME CALL THE POLICE!
GOSH, COACH, I WAS SO SCARED... I'M GLAD YOU CAUGHT ON!
END

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

SWEET CHARITY

OF ALL THE SCHEMES FOR GAINING WEALTH BY DISHONEST MEANS, THERE IS NONE MORE DESPICABLE THAN THE SELFISH METHODS USED BY THOSE WHO ENRICH THEMSELVES IN THE NAME OF CHARITY / IT BECAME DETECTIVE TOM FRANKLIN'S JOB TO ROOT OUT THIS EVIL ... AND THERE WAS NOT EVEN A LAW AGAINST THEIR OPERATIONS /

ON THE MORNING OF MAY 10, DETECTIVE TOM FRANKLIN OF THE RACKET SQUAD, FOUND THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY, JOHN CROYLE, AND A MAN NAMED BENJAMIN HOPPER WAITING FOR HIM AT HEADQUARTERS...

OUR ORGANIZATION IS CALLED "THE FIGHT FOR THE POOR," MR. FRANKLIN! WE PROVIDE FOOD AND SHELTER FOR DESTITUTE PEOPLE!
WHAT CAN I DO, MR. HOPPER?

A YEAR AGO WE LOANED OUR NAME TO TWO MEN, LAYTON AND PACKET! THEY WERE TO SOLICIT FUNDS FOR US ON PERCENTAGE! WELL, OUR PERCENTAGE IS HARDLY ANYTHING! I'M SURE THEY COLLECT A GREAT DEAL!
THEIR RACKET IS A NEW ONE AND THERE'S NO LAW TO STOP THEM! YET, SOMEWHERE THEY MAY BE EVADING A LAW! WE WANT THEM OUT OF BUSINESS!

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

IT WAS A LARGE ORDER FOR DETECTIVE FRANKLIN. HE BEGAN AT THE SOURCE OF THE TROUBLE, THE OFFICES OF LAYTON AND PACKET...
BUT WE USUALLY HAVE WOMEN SOLICIT FUNDS FOR US, MR. FRANKLIN, NOT MEN...
WELL, I'M IN NEED OF MONEY AND I CAN PROMISE YOU'LL GET RESULTS FROM ME!

NEAR THE END OF THE DAY, ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE BUNCO SQUAD APPROACHED TOM FRANKLIN...
HERE'S AN EXTRA HUNDRED, TOM! IT OUGHT TO NAIL THE JOB FOR YOU!
THANKS! HOPE I GET SOMETHING ON THEM BEFORE OUR ALLOWED CAPITAL RUNS OUT!

LATER...
A HUNDRED AND THIRTY DOLLARS! YOU'RE OKAY, FRANKLIN! I'LL COUNT OUT YOUR 35 PERCENT!
NOT A BAD DAY'S WORK IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF!

THE END OF THE WEEK...
S IS THE END OF HE LINE! THERE'RE O MORE COINS TO GIVE YOU, TOM!
I'VE SOLD 'EM A BILL OF GOODS, I THINK! I ASKED FOR A CREW OF MY 'IN!

LATER...
WHAT ABOUT IT, MISTER LAYTON? MAY I ORGANIZE MY OWN CREW?
PACKET AND I HAVE DECIDED JUST THAT, FRANKLIN! YOU CAN INTERVIEW PEOPLE IN THE MORNING! YOU GET AN OVERRIDE ON ALL YOU COLLECT, YOU KNOW!

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

TOM FRANKLIN DID ORGANIZE A CREW OF HIS OWN... THEY WERE A VERY EFFICIENT CREW, TOO BECAUSE THEY WERE ALL POLICE**WOMEN**...

AND OF COURSE LAYTON AND PACKET WERE OVERJOYED...

AND FOR EVERY 'OFFICIAL' GIRL SOLICITOR SIX ADDITIONAL WOMEN WHO WERE NOT REGISTERED COLLECTED FOR EACH GIRL....

THEN, AFTER A FEW WEEKS, TOM PLAYED HIS BEST CARD.

I DON'T KNOW WHY I SHOULD MAKE ALL THIS DOUGH FOR YOU TWO! I THINK I'LL ORGANIZE A CHARITY RACKET OF MY OWN!

WHAT? AFTER ALL WE DID FOR YOU?

BESIDES, YOU HAVE NO ORGANIZATION TO [illegible]

I'VE ALREADY CONTACTED A FEW THAT'LL BE GLAD TO GET MY HELP! OF COURSE, I COULD LISTEN TO REASON...

OKAY YOU'RE A SMART BOY NAME YOUR PROPOSITION!

I WANT AN EQUAL PARTNERSHIP WITH YOU TWO!

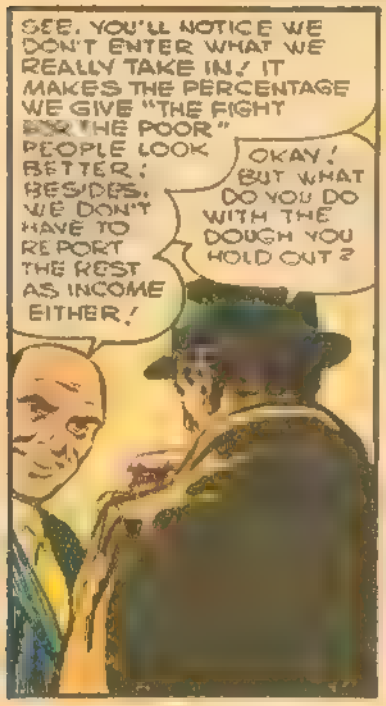
THAT [illegible]

WHY NOT? IT'LL BE MORE MONEY ALL AROUND ANYWAY! WE'LL EVEN GIVE YOU YOUR OWN OFFICE NEXT TO OURS!

LAYTON BROUGHT OUT AN ACCOUNT BOOK

YOU MAY AS WELL GET THE LOWDOWN ON THIS BUSINESS! HERE'S THE BOOK!

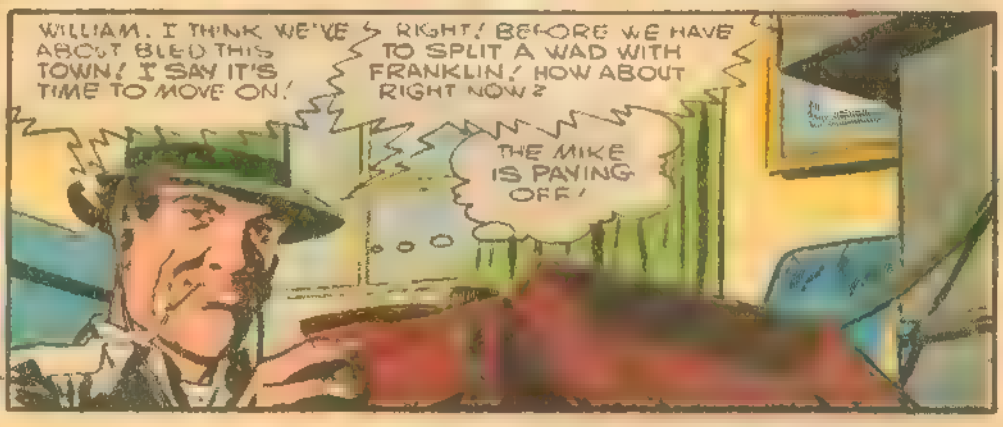
RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION


SEE. YOU'LL NOTICE WE DON'T ENTER WHAT WE REALLY TAKE IN! IT MAKES THE PERCENTAGE WE GIVE "THE FIGHT FOR THE POOR" PEOPLE LOOK BETTER! BESIDES, WE DON'T HAVE TO REPORT THE REST AS INCOME EITHER!
OKAY! BUT WHAT DO YOU DO WITH THE DOUGH YOU HOLD OUT?

WE KEEP IT IN OUR SAFE-DEPOSIT BOX AT THE BANK! ONE OF THESE DAYS WE'LL CLOSE UP SHOP AND SPLIT THE MONEY THREE WAYS!
FAIR ENOUGH!

LATER. TOM FRANKLIN TOOK OVER HIS NEW OFFICE...

WITH DOZENS OF POLICE WOMEN SOLICITING FUNDS. FRANKLIN D'ON T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT RESULTS! INSTEAD, HE KEPT TRACK OF THE DUO! AND ONE DAY...

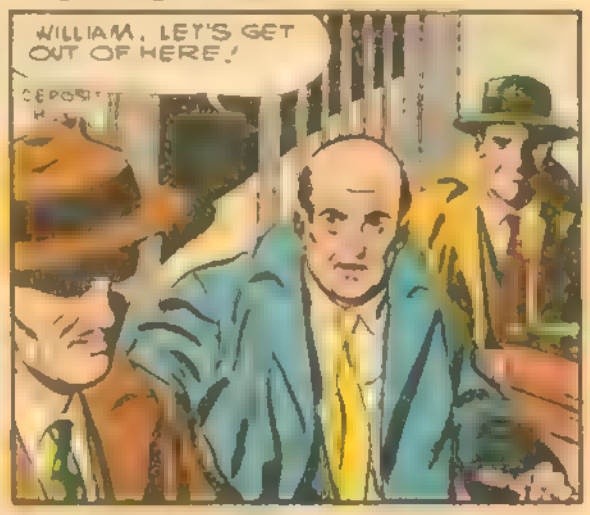

WILLIAM, I THINK WE'VE ABOUT BLED THIS TOWN! I SAY IT'S TIME TO MOVE ON!
RIGHT! BEFORE WE HAVE TO SPLIT A WAD WITH FRANKLIN! HOW ABOUT RIGHT NOW?
THE MIKE IS PAYING OFF!

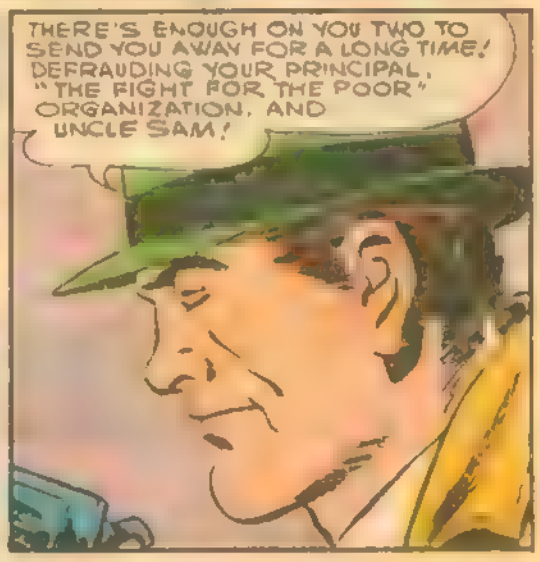
TOM FOLLOWED THE PARTNERS AND A FEW MINUTES LATER...

THEN...

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

WHERE YOU RE GOING, YOU WON'T NEED ANY MONEY! UNCLE SAM IS GOING TO BE VERY INTERESTED IN YOUR TAX RETURNS. YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!
Y...YOU RE CRAZY! YOU DON'T HAVE A THING ON ME!




THERE'S ENOUGH ON YOU TWO TO SEND YOU AWAY FOR A LONG TIME! DEFRAUDING YOUR PRINCIPAL, "THE FIGHT FOR THE POOR" ORGANIZATION, AND UNCLE SAM!

INVESTIGATION PROVED THAT LAYTON AND PACKET HAD DEFRAUDED THE GOVERNMENT ON THEIR INCOME TAXES. FOR THAT AND FOR DEFRAUDING "THE FIGHT FOR THE POOR" ORGANIZATION THEY DREW LONG PRISON TERMS! THEN, ONE DAY...
YOUR WORK ON THAT CASE HAS PROMPTED THE LEGISLATURE TO PASS LAWS TO PUT THOSE RACKETEERS RIGHT OUT OF BUSINESS!
END

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

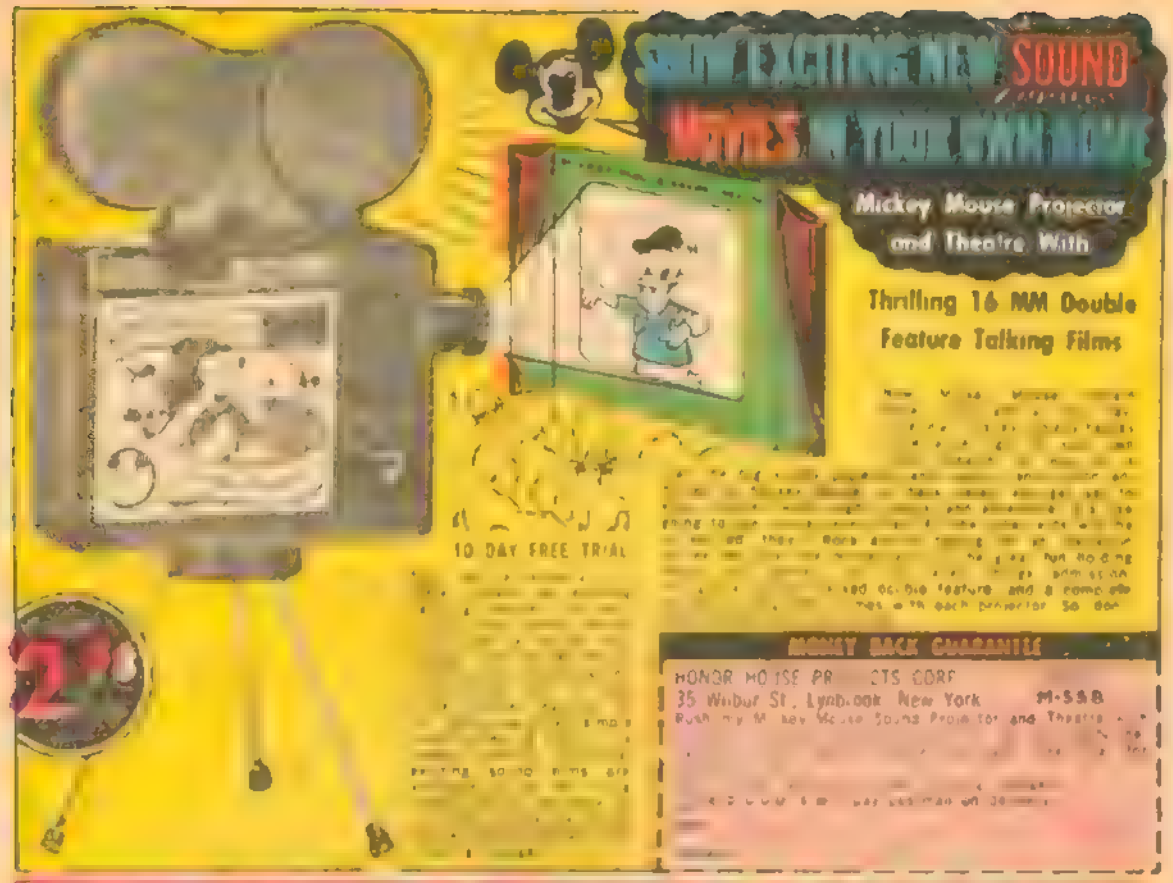
The BUNCO Squad

'EVIDENCE'

MEN OF THE RACKET SQUAD KNOW THAT THEY MUST [illegible] AGAINST CONFIDENCE MEN THAT WILL [illegible] THE EVIDENCE MUST SHOW INTENT

SEIZURE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY OF SUSPECTS OFTEN PRODUCES THE NECESSARY EVIDENCE OF FRAUD! THE TYPE OF TYPEWRITERS CAN MATCH FRAUDULENT LETTERS! CHECKWRITERS MAY HAVE WRITTEN BOGUS CHECKS! POSSESSION OF CHECKBOOKS OF FIRMS WITH WHOM THEY HAVE NO CONNECTION CAN HELP TO CONVICT BUNCO ARTISTS...

BUNCO MEN KNOW, TOO, THAT DEFINITE KNOWLEDGE OF FORMER CONVICTIONS OF CON MEN OFTEN HELPS TO CONVICT THE CRIMINALS OF NEW FRAUDS! THE PRIOR POLICE RECORD OFTEN SHOWS THE PATTERN FOLLOWED BY CRIMINALS AND POINTS THE FINGER OF GUILT AT THE CON MEN IN THEIR NEW SWINDLES...



HERE IS THE KIND OF HE-MAN BODY YOU CAN HAVE!

WHAT'S THE SECRET

You can broaden your shoulders strengthen your back add inches to your chest, develop a vise like grip make those legs of yours powerful, shoot new strength into your back-bone exercise those inner organs

and red blooded vitality The new "home gym method" that is the sure best and most inexpensive It has changed many a 90 lb weakling to a he man It has turned many a sk boy into a physical specimen It can do the for you! No $50.00 courses No expens gadgets You simply use the inexpensive home gym which helps you use the dor mant muscle power in your own body You will watch it increase in double time into solid muscle The home gym method is easy!

No matter how skinny or flabby you are the amazing new muscle power body builder can help you gain inches of solid muscle in double quick time only 10 minutes a day!

THE HOME GYM IS SOMETHING EVERYONE WHO WANTS A BETTER BUILD WILL PRIZE! JUST MAIL ING THE COUPON MAY MEAN THE TURNING POINT IN YOUR LIFE!

You'll be

-MAIL NO RISK COUPON NOW!-

HOME GYM CO., DEPT 134

PLEASE RUSH full

guarantee that I must gain inches of solid muscle and I must be 100% satisfied or I get my money back

I enclose $3.98 Send Deluxe

I enclose $2.98 cash check

and postage prepaid (I save by sending $3.98 with m

Name

Address

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

SOME SHIRTS

"We spent the week end at my Uncle Julius' house. Imagine a summer home with thirty-seven rooms. That's what my Uncle bought at Lookout Point. Has his own private beach, and two motor boats. He isn't a bit snobbish. Not my Uncle Julius. Never tries to show off because he has so much money. No matter what business he invests his money in, he always makes more. Of course he has a lot of brains in his head. Just think of it! When he was twenty-three he only was earning forty-seven dollars a week. Decided to go into business for himself. Now at fifty, they say he figures his money in the millions.

He's had a lot of funny experiences. There was the time he bought a lot of stuff when he took a trip to Europe. Some of those art experts sold him pictures by the old masters. He brought them back to this country and got some of the experts from the National Art Museum to look at his pictures. He thought maybe he had a Rembrandt. They checked the picture over for a week and then gave him the answer. He hasn't a Rembrandt, but two of his pictures were painted by Van Demeer. Worth a hundred thousand dollars each. That's my Uncle Julius for you."

Detective Al Norton stopped for breath and his buddy, Detective Ben Egan sighed.

"I haven't an Uncle Julius with a lot of money, but some day maybe I'll tell you about my Aunt Emma. She lives out in Kansas. Bought some land in Texas and they found oil on it. She has a load of money."

The phone rang and Al Norton answered it. No need to continue on the topic of rich relatives.

"Chief Edward Mirkus wants us in his office at once. Says he just received a phone call and we will have to leave at once. Come on! We can't keep the Chief waiting."

The police chief was proud of the two members of his Special Squad. They could handle anything from the ordinary routine matters to the toughest assignment. The door to his office was open and they walked in.

"Officer John Murphy called in five minutes ago. His foot beat is out on the south side of Mortondale Avenue. Small private house on the Avenue was robbed. The number is 3769. You two hop out there and take charge of things."

Twenty minutes later the two detectives parked their car on the street and rang the bell at 3769 Mortondale Avenue. Officer John Murphy answered it.

"Glad you two came. The fellow who was robbed was mad. Said he would call up the mayor to get some action. I just let him blow off some steam. He's in the living room. He's a big man."

Big was a mild way of describing Charles Borg. He was at least six feet eight and must have weighed at least four hundred pounds. Yet he didn't seem out of proportion. The police officer introduced him to the two detectives.

"Just plain fools whoever they are!" snarled Charles Borg who clenched his right fist in anger. "Good thing for them I wasn't home when they robbed my place. Know why I am angry? Because they can't do a thing with the stuff they took away with them. I have a weakness for silk shirts. They took three dozen of them, and also four of my new suits. They can't wear the stuff. And just where are they going to find a big man like myself to sell it to? I once was a strong man in the circus."

"Mind if I ask what you do now?" remarked Al Norton.

At that question Charles Borg was no longer angry. A small smile appeared on his face. He started to laugh.

"Yes sir, I guess it does sound funny. I sell baby clothing for a Chicago concern. Guess I'm over being mad now. What can I do to help you detectives?"

"How did they get in here?" asked Detective Ben Egan.

"Used a jimmy on the back door," explained the patrolman. "Follow me and you can see for yourselves."

The two detectives checked the back door carefully. Then Detective Al Norton spoke to Charles Borg.

"Now don't think I want to criticize you, but you know the old story about putting a lock on the stable after the horse is stolen. You need a good solid door and a good lock. We'll send for the fingerprint man, but the chances are he won't come up with anything. However we will check second hand stores that buy clothing. If anything turns up we'll notify you."

Frank Kane came over and checked for prints. He found nothing that would give them a lead. The detectives returned to headquarters.

"I'll send out the bulletins," said Detective Al Norton to his buddy, "and you take care of the official report."

Three days later there was a phone call for the detectives when they returned from lunch. Amazement was written all over the face of Detective Ben Egan as he called the number and did some listening over the phone. He hung up the receiver.

"I just can't believe it," he told his partner. "That was Charles Borg on the phone. One of the robbers called him and wanted to make a deal. They couldn't use the stuff, and found they couldn't sell it. Will return everything to him for forty dollars. He made an appointment for ten tonight. Come on and we'll rig up the place with a microphone and tape recorder."

The two detectives went over to the house on Mortondale Avenue. They briefly explained the plan to Charles Borg.

"Sounds good to me," agreed the salesman. "You can start any time you want to put in the mike and tape recorder. I'll do everything I can to help you get those crooks. How dumb can they be? Trying to make a deal with the victim. And I'm the victim!"

At nine-thirty that night Detective Al Norton spoke to Charles Borg.

"We'll hide downstairs in the cellar. They will check the house to be certain nobody else is here. They won't find us, but remember this bit of safety advice. Don't try to play hero. Making an arrest is up to us. No matter what they do, don't offer any resistance."

At a quarter after ten the doorbell rang at 3769 Mortondale Avenue. The salesman opened the door. Two heavy set men were there. Each was carrying a valise.

"Aren't you going to ask us in?" said a gruff voice.

The two men followed Charles Borg into his living room. One of them opened closet doors and looked into the other rooms.

"Everything's clear, Joe," he said to his partner. "Let's open the valises and show the guy all his stuff."

The valises were opened and Charles Borg hurriedly checked his possessions.

"You should have been careful with those shirts. Now I'll have to send them to the laundry to be cleaned."

"Give us the forty dollars and forget the words," suggested the man called Joe. "We haven't all night to waste here. We got a date with two dames. Your money will give us a good time."

The salesman took a wallet from his pocket and counted out eight five dollar bills. Joe's partner became interested in the wallet which had more money in it.

"You might as well give us all the money you got with you," he suggested as his right hand went into his coat pocket.

"That would be stealing," half scolded Charles Borg. "It was bad enough stealing my clothing. You are not being honorable."

"Oh, shut up," snapped back Joe. "Another crack from you and we'll take away the clothing and dump it into the river."

The salesman offered no resistance as they took his wallet and headed for the door. He did have something to say.

"People like you who break the law will come to a bad end."

There was no reply to that last sentence. The two men headed for their car which was parked on the corner. Two other men were peeking into their car.

"Get away you two," said Joe. "Or I'll call some detectives. Trying to steal our car?"

"But we are detectives," replied Detective Al Norton as he flashed his badge. "Just stay put and you'll get a free ride to headquarters."

In the interrogation room the two men listened to the tape recording.

"With our records I guess we'll get from five to ten for this job," said Joe.

"You certainly will," agreed Detective Ben Egan. "I just want to play over the last sentence on that tape recorder for your benefit. Think about it for the next couple of years:

"People Like You Who Break the Law Will Come to a Bad End."

— THE END —

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

TOOLEY the TRAMP

ME?
HOW'D YA LIKE A NICE DINNER PLATE OF ROAST BEEF
WELL I AIN'T HAD MY LUNCH YET
D'YA THINK THAT'LL DO YA FOR A WHILE
I AIN'T REALLY THAT HUNGRY!
I THOUGHT YOU WEREN'T TOO HUNGRY
I DIDN'T WANNA HURT YOUR FEELINGS!

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

COFFEE AND PIE!
WE-ELL JUST A HALFA CUP ANDA SMALL PIECE!
LATER THIRD HELPING
LATER
GULP
HEY YOU! JUST A MINUTE!
BUT YOU DIDN'T SAY I HADDA WASH DISHES!
'N I DIDN'T SAY YA DIDN'T HAVE TO WASH EM EITHER!

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

HONEST John

I RAN INTO HONEST JOHN HAMMILL QUITE BY ACCIDENT [illegible] EVEN THEN I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN SUSPICIOUS HAD I NOT HAD [illegible] A LUNCH WAGON, OF ALL PLACES, IN BUYING A CUP OF [illegible] ...

I HAD BEEN AT THE CRIMINAL [illegible] COURTS BUILDING ON AN ERRAND I WAS A TRIFLE EMBARRASSED ABOUT HAVING TO CARRY OUT, AND IN ORDER TO MEET [illegible] I HAD TO WALK THROUGH THE DOWNTOWN INDUSTRIAL SECTION.

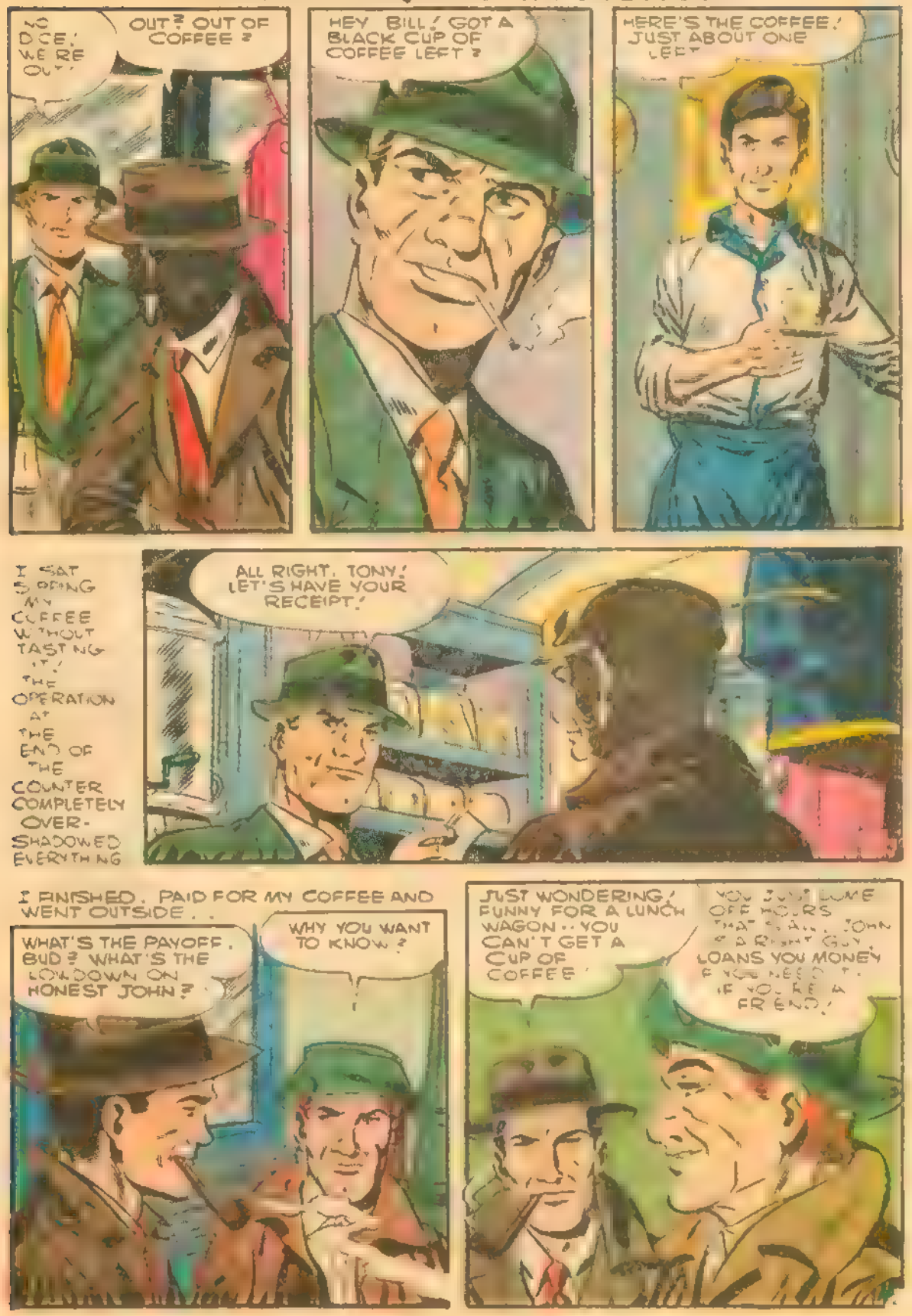
I COULD STAND A CUP OF JAVA!

DINER

YEAH? WHADDYA WANT?

CUP OF COFFEE! MAKE IT BLACK!

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION


NO DICE! WE'RE OUT!
OUT? OUT OF COFFEE?
HEY BILL! GOT A BLACK CUP OF COFFEE LEFT?
HERE'S THE COFFEE! JUST ABOUT ONE LEFT
I SAT STARING AT MY COFFEE WITHOUT TASTING IT. THE OPERATION AT THE END OF THE COUNTER COMPLETELY OVER-SHADOWED EVERYTHING
ALL RIGHT, TONY! LET'S HAVE YOUR RECEIPT!
I FINISHED. PAID FOR MY COFFEE AND WENT OUTSIDE . .
WHAT'S THE PAYOFF, BUD? WHAT'S THE LOW-DOWN ON HONEST JOHN?
WHY YOU WANT TO KNOW?
JUST WONDERING! FUNNY FOR A LUNCH WAGON . . YOU CAN'T GET A CUP OF COFFEE
YOU JUST LOVE OFF HOURS THAT'S ALL. JOHN'S A RIGHT GUY. LOANS YOU MONEY IF YOU NEED IT. IF YOU'RE A FRIEND.

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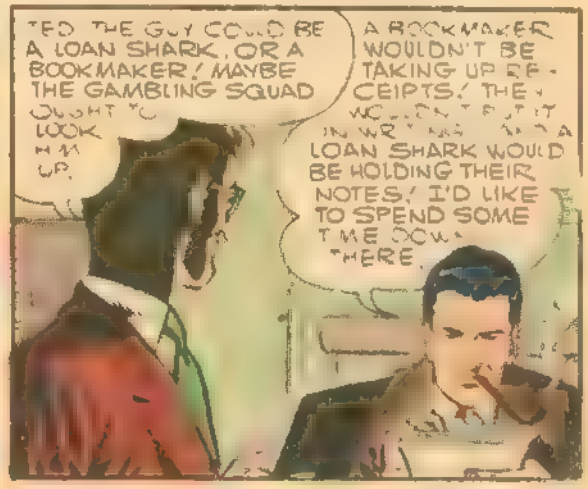
VETS

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

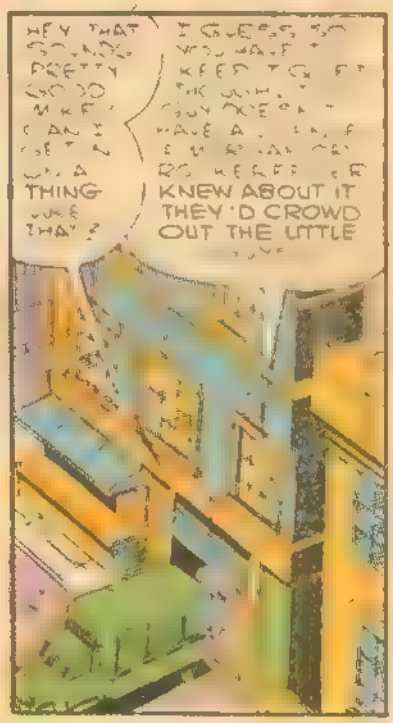
WHEN I RETURNED TO HEADQUARTERS I TOLD THE CHIEF FRED MELTON ABOUT MY SIESTA WITH A COFFEE CUP...


TED THE GUY COULD BE A LOAN SHARK, OR A BOOKMAKER! MAYBE THE GAMBLING SQUAD OUGHT TO LOOK HIM UP.
A BOOKMAKER WOULDN'T BE TAKING UP RECEIPTS! THEY WOULDN'T PUT IT IN WRITING AND A LOAN SHARK WOULD BE HOLDING THEIR NOTES! I'D LIKE TO SPEND SOME TIME DOWN THERE.

I GOT A JOB LAWARE-HOUSE NEAR-DUEST JOHN'S LUNCH WAGON. I WORKED WITH A FELLOW NAMED MIKE INGO AFTER A DAY I PUT A FLEA IN HIS EAR ABOUT GETTING A LOAN AND DEPOSITING IT IN A BANK. THEN

WHEN I KNEW A BOOKMAKER AROUND WHERE I WORK THE BOSS'S MONEY AND MEN,
I ONLY 'ED I MIGHT MULTIPLY MY DOUGH. I NEVER PLAY 'EM MYSELF

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT? YOU BUY BONDS NOT OFF LIKE THAT?
A LOT BETTER THAN THAT. YOU DOUBLE YOUR DOUGH IN SIX DAYS. A SURE FIRE SECRET CLUB.

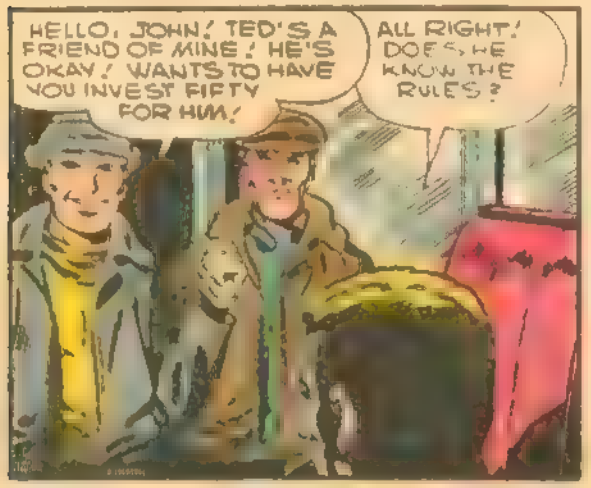

HEY THAT SOUNDS PRETTY GOOD MIKE. CAN I GET IN ON A THING LIKE THAT?
I GUESS SO YOU HAVE TO KEEP IT QUIET. YOU SEE IT MAKE A LOT OF EXTRA MONEY BUT IF KNEW ABOUT IT THEY'D CROWD OUT THE LITTLE

SUDDENLY I FELT THAT I HAD PUSHED MY LUCK PAST ITS BREAKING POINT. I DIDN'T WANT TO PRESS MY LUCK TOO FAR

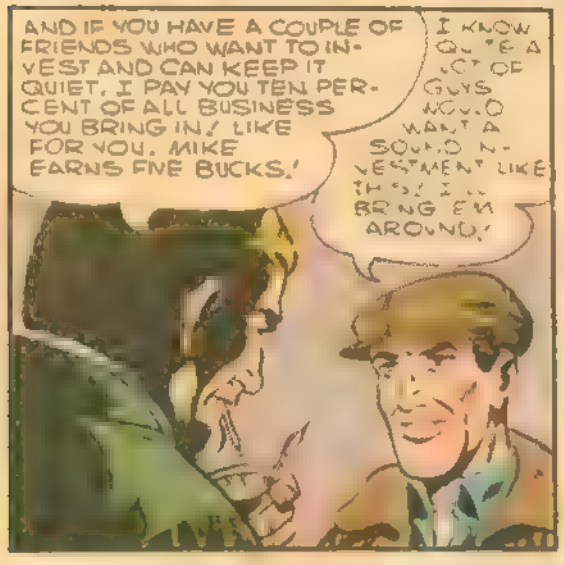
HOW DOES HE KEEP IT QUIET MIKE? AND HOW DO YOU KNOW IT'S A SAFE INVESTMENT?
NOBODY'S LOST A DIME. EVERYBODY DOUBLES HIS DOUGH. BESIDES THE GUY TAKES IN MONEY ONLY TWICE A MONTH. THE FIFTEENTH AND THE LAST DAY OF THE MONTH. OLD

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

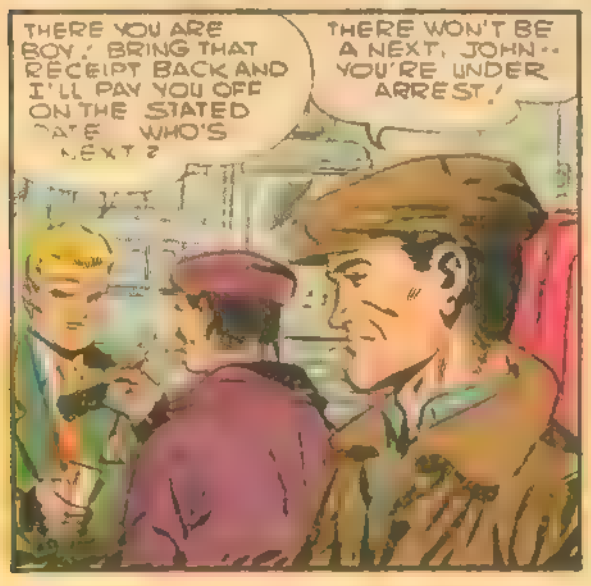
IT WAS ONLY TWO DAYS WAIT UNTIL THE FIRST. I GOT A STAKE FROM HEADQUARTERS OF FIFTY DOLLARS, AND...



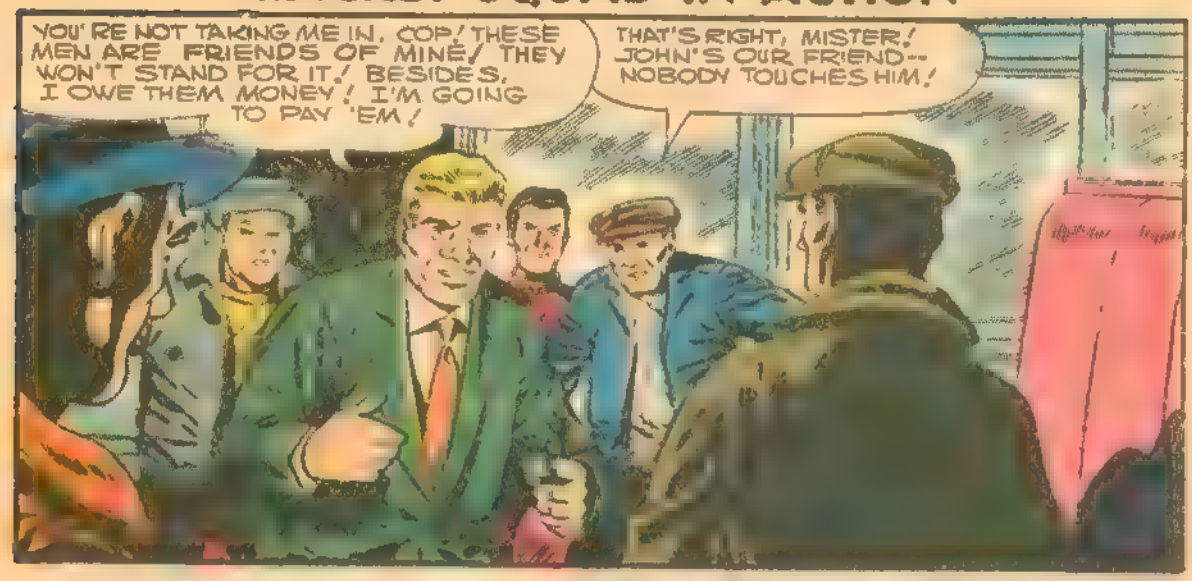
HERE'S YOUR RECEIPT TED. COME BACK THE THIRTIETH OF THE MONTH AFTER THIS ONE, AND I'LL PAY YOU DOUBLE. YOU KEEP THIS QUIET, UNDERSTAND? THE BIG SHOTS WOULD KILL THE INVESTMENT MARKET IF THEY FOUND OUT.

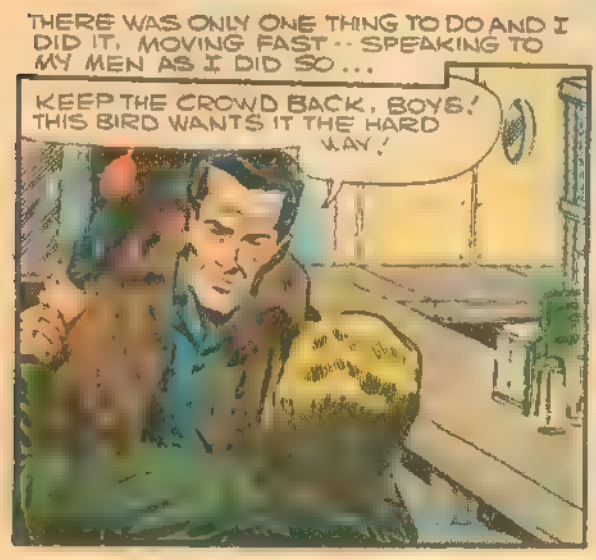

AND IF YOU HAVE A COUPLE OF FRIENDS WHO WANT TO INVEST AND CAN KEEP IT QUIET, I PAY YOU TEN PERCENT OF ALL BUSINESS YOU BRING IN. LIKE FOR YOU, MIKE EARNS FIVE BUCKS.
I KNOW QUITE A LOT OF GUYS WOULD WANT A SOUND INVESTMENT LIKE THIS. I'LL BRING 'EM AROUND.

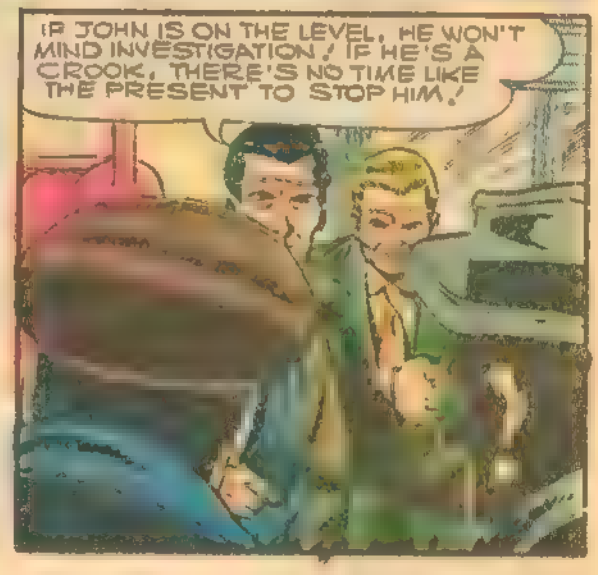
IT SEEMED TOO FANTASTIC TO BE TRUE. HERE I FELT, WAS A PINT-SIZED CHARLES PONZI. WISE ENOUGH TO LIMIT HIS CUSTOMERS TO APPRECIATIVE WORKMEN, AND THUS COMPELLED TO INVEST, TAKING IN ENOUGH NEW CUSTOMERS TO PAY OFF THE NOTE HOLDERS AND LEAVE HIM A PROFIT. THE NEXT DAY FOR TAKING IN MONEY WAS THE FIFTEENTH

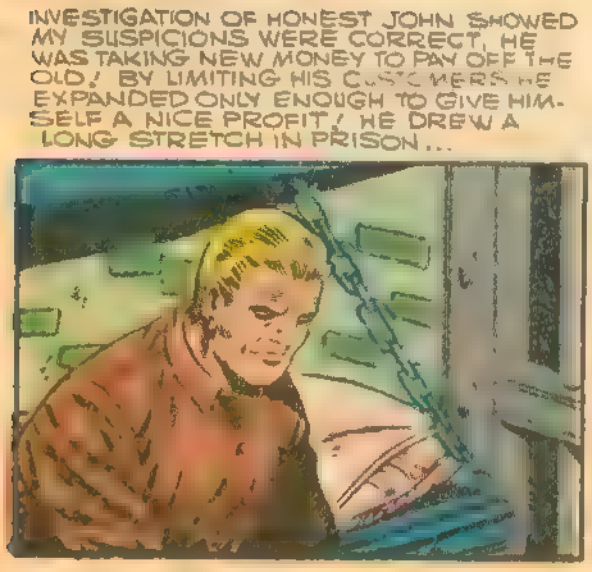

THERE YOU ARE BOY. BRING THAT RECEIPT BACK AND I'LL PAY YOU OFF ON THE STATED DATE. WHO'S NEXT?
THERE WON'T BE A NEXT, JOHN.. YOU'RE UNDER ARREST.

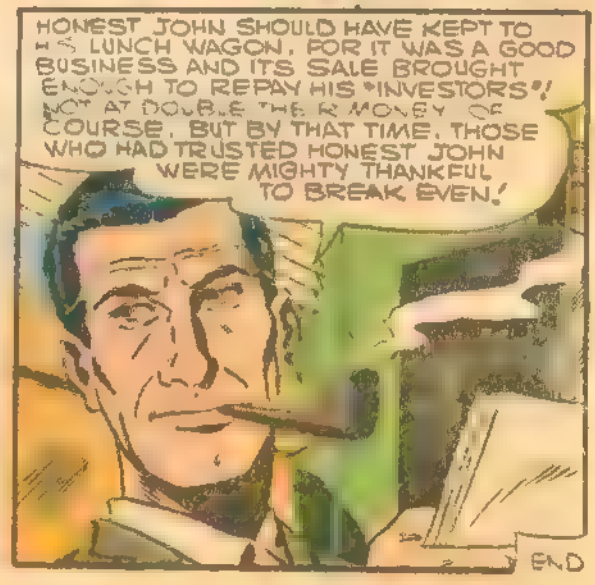
RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION


YOU'RE NOT TAKING ME IN, COP! THESE MEN ARE FRIENDS OF MINE! THEY WON'T STAND FOR IT! BESIDES, I OWE THEM MONEY! I'M GOING TO PAY 'EM!
THAT'S RIGHT, MISTER! JOHN'S OUR FRIEND-- NOBODY TOUCHES HIM!


THERE WAS ONLY ONE THING TO DO AND I DID IT. MOVING FAST -- SPEAKING TO MY MEN AS I DID SO ...
KEEP THE CROWD BACK, BOYS! THIS BIRD WANTS IT THE HARD WAY!




INVESTIGATION OF HONEST JOHN SHOWED MY SUSPICIONS WERE CORRECT. HE WAS TAKING NEW MONEY TO PAY OFF THE OLD! BY LIMITING HIS CUSTOMERS HE EXPANDED ONLY ENOUGH TO GIVE HIMSELF A NICE PROFIT! HE DREW A LONG STRETCH IN PRISON...

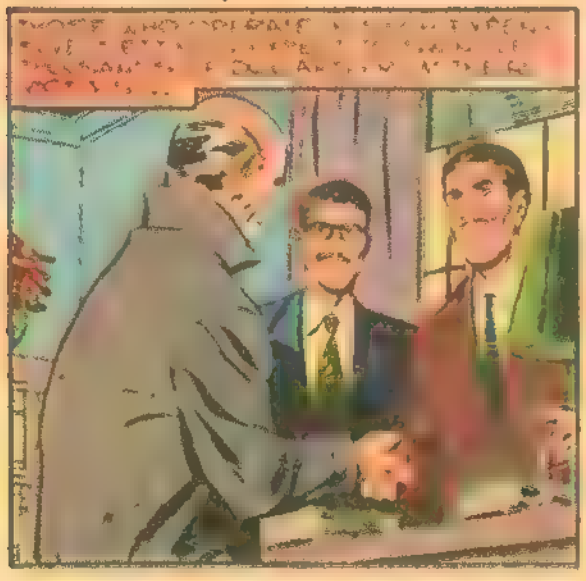

HONEST JOHN SHOULD HAVE KEPT TO HIS LUNCH WAGON, FOR IT WAS A GOOD BUSINESS AND ITS SALE BROUGHT ENOUGH TO REPAY HIS "INVESTORS"! NOT AT DOUBLE THEIR MONEY OF COURSE, BUT BY THAT TIME, THOSE WHO HAD TRUSTED HONEST JOHN WERE MIGHTY THANKFUL TO BREAK EVEN!
END

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

The BUNCO Squad

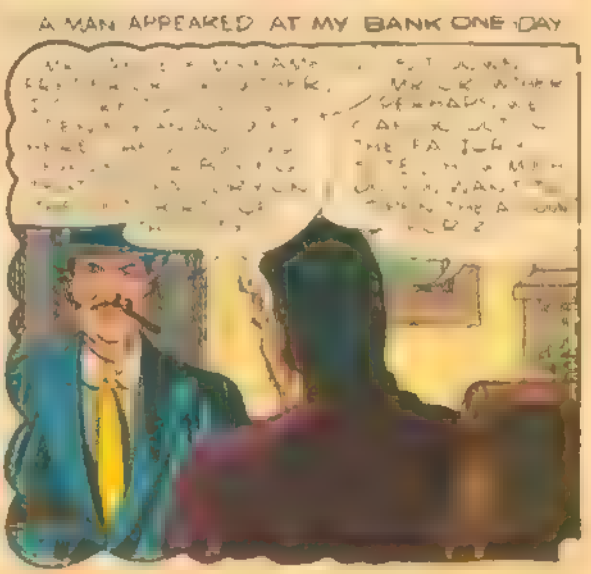
"SETTINGS AND TYPES"

POLICE OF THE RACKET SQUAD KNOW THAT THE BIG MONEY MAKING CONFIDENCE GAMES USUALLY REQUIRE A SUCCESSFUL STOCK BROKER'S OFFICE IN ORDER TO IMPRESS PROSPECTIVE VICTIMS! THE OFFICE AND MORE FAKE AND THE OFFICE WORKERS SHOWN HERE MUCH ACTION IN THE HIRED ASSOCIATES OF THE BUNCO "ARTIST"...



RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

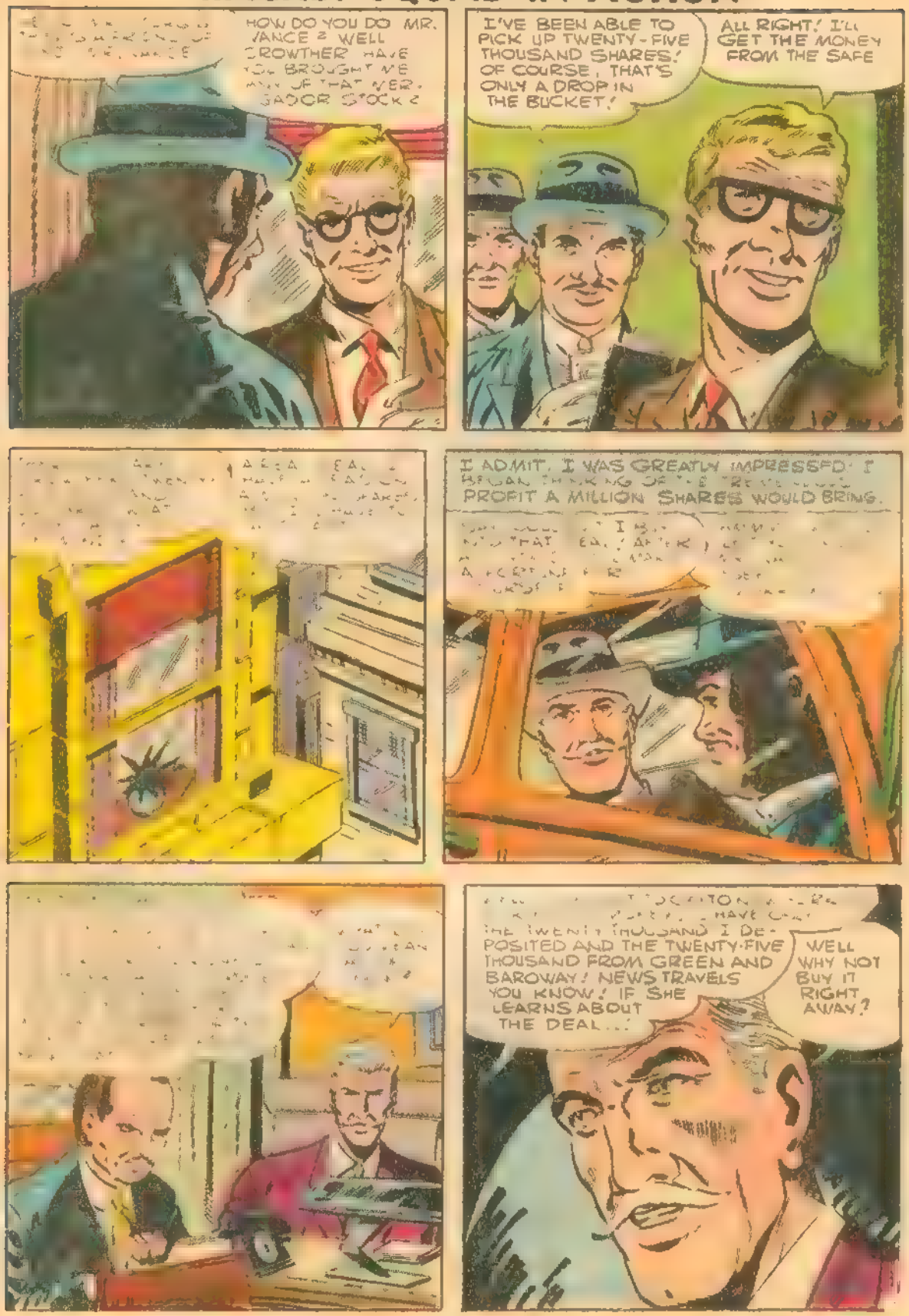
The DISSOLVING EMPIRE



RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

YES, THIS WILL DO SPLENDIDLY! AND THE PRICE IS ALL RIGHT!
FINE! SUPPOSE WE GO TO THE BANK AND COMPLETE THE DEAL!
I MUST GO TO NEW YORK AND BRING BACK THE MONEY. I NEED THE DEPOSIT FOR CURRENT TRANSACTIONS HERE.. BUT YOU'LL ARRANGE THE PAPERS
CERTAINLY! WHAT IS YOUR BUSINESS MR CROWTHER?
OF COURSE BUT MY CLIENT DESIRES TO USE THEM AS A MEANS OF BRINGING CAPITAL TO THIS COUNTRY
OH SO YOU'RE JUST THE AGENT?
THAT SOUNDS INCREDIBLE!
I'LL TELL YOU WHAT, MR. VANCE! I'LL DRIVE YOU INTO THE NEXT CITY AND SHOW YOU HOW FAST I CAN PICK UP TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND - IF YOU HAVE SOME TIME TO SPARE!
I'LL TAKE YOU UP ON THAT, MR CROWTHER! LET'S GO!
THIS WAY VANCE. I DO BUSINESS WITH MR. STURGIS!
GOOD IDEA, CROWTHER! DEAL ONLY WITH THE TOP MEN
MARRIAGE

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION


HOW DO YOU DO MR. VANCE? WELL CROWTHER HAVE YOU BROUGHT ME A LIST OF THAT VER-MADOR STOCK?
I'VE BEEN ABLE TO PICK UP TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND SHARES! OF COURSE, THAT'S ONLY A DROP IN THE BUCKET!
ALL RIGHT! I'LL GET THE MONEY FROM THE SAFE
I ADMIT, I WAS GREATLY IMPRESSED! I BEGAN THINKING OF THE PROFIT A MILLION SHARES WOULD BRING.
THE TWENTY THOUSAND I DEPOSITED AND THE TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND FROM GREEN AND BARROWAY! NEWS TRAVELS YOU KNOW! IF SHE LEARNS ABOUT THE DEAL...!
WELL WHY NOT BUY IT RIGHT AWAY?

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

THE AFTERNOON PASSED
CROWTHER IN NO HURRY
YOU WOULD TALK AND TALK WITH THAT WOMAN
WHAT CAN WE DO NOW, CROWTHER?
NOTHING TO DO BUT WAIT TILL MORNING I'LL MEET YOU HERE AT

WE'LL RIPPLE YOUR BODY WITH MUSCLES and LOAD T-N-T IN YOUR FISTS

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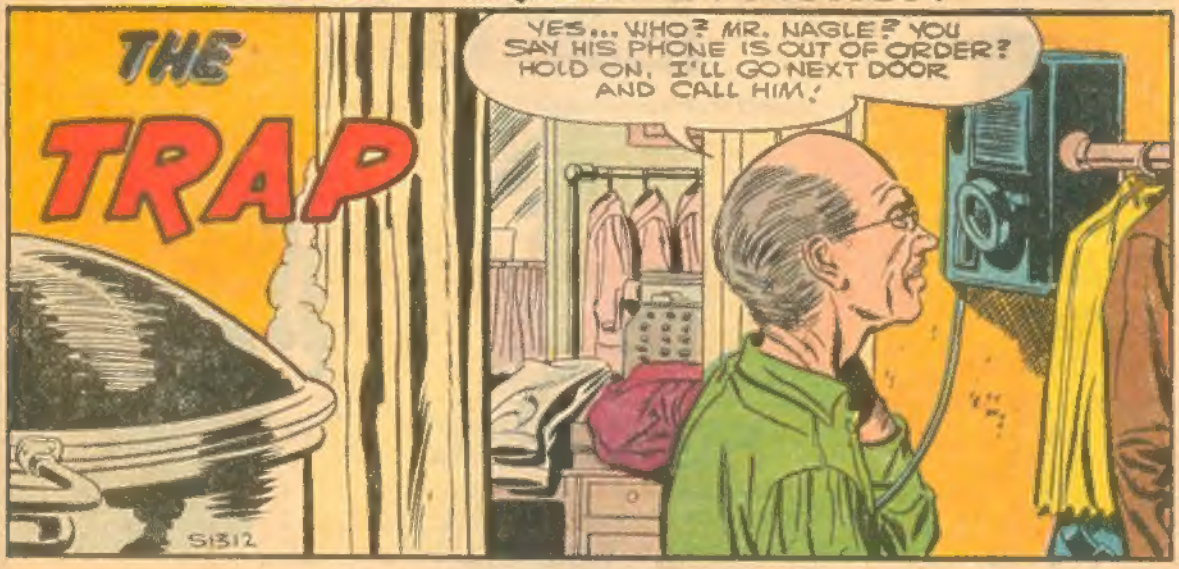
RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

THE BEST THING YOU COULD HAVE DONE WAS TO COME HERE! SO MANY VICTIMS ARE TOO ASHAMED OF BEING DUPED TO REPORT IT
COULD YOU IDENTIFY STURGIS? CROWTHER AND MRS. HILL?
OF COURSE!
A BROAD ALARM WAS SENT OUT AT ONCE! LATER, AT THE CITY'S AIRPORT
..FREDERICK CROWTHER, MAYBE? NO BOSTON, THERE'S BEEN NO MISTAKE YOU JUST PICKED THE WRONG MAN A GUY WHO WASN'T AFRAID TO ADMIT HE'D BEEN TAKEN.
END

STURGIS, HILL AND MOLLY CONWAY WERE ARRESTED AT LOT BY VANCE. THEY WERE ALL FOUND GUILTY AND CONVICTED; ALL WERE SENTENCED TO STIFF OR SOLID TERMS!

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION



HELLO, THIS IS NAGLE! MY PHONE'S OUT OF ORDER? FUNNY... DON'T KEEP ME TOO LONG, MY STORE IS UNATTENDED! SURE, I CAN FILL OUT A PRESCRIPTION RIGHT AWAY! WHAT'S THAT? HOW DO I KNOW HOW MUCH IT WILL COST UNTIL I SEE IT -- WELL, GO AHEAD AND READ IT...

...AND WENT STRAIGHT TO THE CASH REGISTER...
ALL RIGHT, WATERS! YOU'RE UNDER ARREST! WE'VE BEEN WATCHING YOU SINCE THAT LAST ROBBERY LAST WEEK! IT FITTED YOUR PATTERN!
WH... COPS!

WE RACKET SQUAD MEN HAVE A RECORD OF YOUR PAST CRIMES! WE EVEN HAVE YOUR ACCOMPLICE!
YEP, HE'S BEEN WATCHED SINCE HE WENT INTO THE PHONE BOOTH! GUESS YOU PUNKS WILL NEVER LEARN, WILL YOU?
END

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